

2-2-2015

## Current, February 02, 2015

University of Missouri-St. Louis

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### Recommended Citation

University of Missouri-St. Louis, "Current, February 02, 2015" (2015). *Current (2010s)*. 189.  
<http://irl.umsel.edu/current2010s/189>

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# The Current

VOL. 48

ISSUE 1459

FEB 2, 2015

UMSL'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWS



## STL Top-Tiers Two STDs

KAT RIDDLER  
NEWS EDITOR

### ST LOUISIS 2013 Data

#### High in St. Louis

Although rates of sexually transmitted diseases are steadily decreasing, Missouri and St. Louis remain on top of the list, compared to other U.S. regions



#### WYOMING

264 cases of chlamydia reported per 100,000 persons

VS

#### MISSOURI

454 cases of chlamydia reported per 100,000 persons



The overall numbers of reports for syphilis, gonorrhea, and chlamydia in U.S. are on the downfall

#### WORLDWIDE

STDs remain critical health challenge. CDC estimates that there are 19 million infections every year in the United States alone and over 500 million worldwide.

### Syphilis

25-29 year-old men have the highest rates of syphilis



Men



Men who have sex with men account for 75% of primary and secondary syphilis

Syphilis can travel through the bloodstream and infect a baby anytime during pregnancy



Mortality



If untreated in pregnant women, up to 40% of cases can result in the fetus' death

According to the 2013 Center for Disease Control (CDC) report, released December 2014, St. Louis City ranks number one for Chlamydia and number two for Gonorrhea in the nation. The CDC states that lack of awareness is causing the high numbers. There are high amounts of screening, but still cases of infection go unnoticed because people do not show signs of the diseases.

C. trachomatis infection, or Chlamydia, has been the most commonly reported sexually transmitted disease in the United States since 1994, according to the CDC report. Chlamydia is most common among young adults, ages 15 through 24. Most people that have the disease show no symptoms, but it can cause serious, permanent damage to a woman's reproductive system if untreated. Symptoms are different for men and women. Men can experience discharge from their penis, a burning sensation when urinating, and pain and swelling in one or both testicles. Women can experience an abnormal vaginal discharge and a burning sensation when urinating. It is transmitted by vaginal, anal, or oral intercourse with someone who has Chlamydia. If you have had Chlamydia and were treated in the past, you can still get Chlamydia again. You can be tested for the disease again three months after you have been treated. If pregnant, you can pass Chlamydia to the baby in childbirth. Chlamydia can be treated by medication prescribed by a doctor. If you are taking a prescription for the disease, you must wait to have sex until you have completed the dosage (usually seven days) to prevent transmission to a partner.

"In 2013, the overall rate of Chlamydial infection in the United States among women (623.1 cases per 100,000 females) was over two times the rate among men (262.6 cases per 100,000 males), reflecting the larger number of women screened for this infection,"

according to the CDC report, which also reports that, "In 2013, the Chlamydia rate in blacks was 6.4 times the rate in whites and the rate among American Indians/Alaska Natives was almost 4 times that rate among whites."

Gonorrhea is a sexually transmitted disease that can cause infection in the throat, rectum, and genitals. Symptoms in men and women are different and sometimes the signs do not appear, just as in cases of Chlamydia. Symptoms are similar to Chlamydia. Men can experience a burning sensation when urinating, different color discharge from the penis and painful or swollen testicles. Women can experience painful or burning sensation when urinating, increased vaginal discharge and vaginal bleeding between periods. If you are pregnant, you can pass the disease to a baby during childbirth causing health problems for the newborn. Long term health problems can occur in both men and women if not treated.

"In 2013, for the first time since 2000, the rate of reported Gonorrhea cases among men was higher than the rate among women. From 2012 to 2013, the Gonorrhea rate among men increased 4.3 percent and the rate among women decreased 5.1 percent," says the CDC report.

While being named number one for a sexually transmitted disease is bad, the rate in comparison to other metropolitan areas is also somewhat skewed due to the separation of St. Louis City and County, according to City of St. Louis Department of Health Director Pam Walker. She said, "St. Louis and Baltimore are the only cities not within a county therefore ranking St. Louis City in comparison to all others in the CDC report is comparing apples to oranges."

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THE CURRENT ONLINE

Game Corner

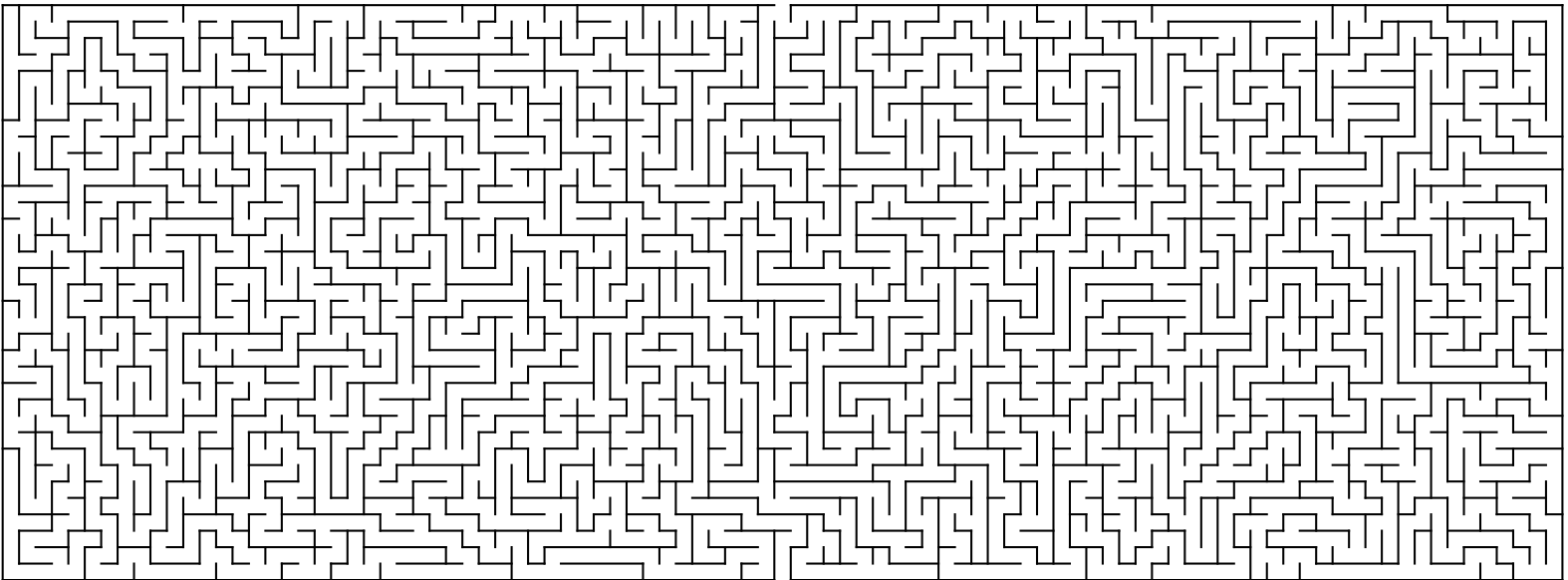
difficulty level: cake

3	2	6		5	9			
		8				5	2	
					2			
5		4					8	
	3	2	9	6	5	1	7	
	1					3		6
			1					
	4	7				2		
			7	4		8	1	5

last week's solution

8	2	6	5	9	4	7	1	3
4	5	3	1	7	6	9	8	2
7	1	9	3	2	8	4	5	6
6	7	8	2	1	9	3	4	5
2	9	5	4	6	3	1	7	8
1	3	4	7	8	5	6	2	9
5	8	1	9	3	7	2	6	4
3	4	7	6	5	2	8	9	1
9	6	2	8	4	1	5	3	7

difficulty level: thoroughly cruel



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the editor should be brief, and those not exceeding 250 words will be given preference. We edit letters for clarity and length, not for dialect, correctness, intent, or grammar. All letters must be signed and must include a daytime phone number. Students must include their student ID numbers. Faculty and staff must include their title(s) and department(s). The Editor-in-Chief reserves the right to respond to letters. The Current reserves the right to deny letters.

GET INVOLVED


Do you have a tip regarding a story? Have a correction to report? Do you have a question or comment for our staff? Contact us at thecurrenttips@umsl.edu. We look forward to hearing from you.

The Current values feedback from the campus community. What do you think of our campus coverage? Let us know your thoughts at thecurrent@umsl.edu.

THE UNDERCURRENT

By Ashlee Carlstrom


WHAT DO YOU LOOK FORWARD MOST ON SUPER BOWL SUNDAY?



LOGAN REAM,  
Senior, Communications  
"The commercials. I'm not much of a football fan."



TYRE DINWIDDIE,  
Junior, Bio-Chemistry  
"I hope the Seahawks pull a win over the Patriots."



PRESHUS REVELS,  
Senior, Psychology  
"My family, and the food is a bonus."

MON 28  
23

TUE 47  
29

WED 33  
18

THU 28  
17

FRI 40  
31

SAT 48  
37

SUN 44  
26



STL Top-Tiers Two STDs

SGA Report

KAT RIDDLER  
NEWS EDITOR

WILL PATTERSON & ANNA GLUSHKO  
CRIME REPORTER & EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Continued from page 1

The City Health Department also states that, “For 2013 compared to 2012 Chlamydia and Gonorrhea are slightly up but compared to our highest most recent high year of 2011 they are both down 11 percent.”

The University of Missouri – St. Louis offers information on the prevention of STDs. Health Educator, Kathy Castulik, will set up educational presentations on a variety of topics, including STD education and prevention. Castulik can be contacted at 314-516-4657 or email at castulikk@umsl.edu. You can also get more information at the University Health Wellness and Counseling Services located at 131 Millennium Student Center or call 314-516-5671.

For more information visit the CDC website at [www.cdc.gov/std](http://www.cdc.gov/std).

Students who are interested in being a Student Government Association (SGA) senator can apply February 9 through 16. Applications will be available on TritonSync. On January 30, SGA discussed making grade appeal more student friendly. In addition, the solutions to campus parking were addressed.

The Nosh is scheduled to be renovated. UMSL is planning to add new vendors with extra food varieties, including frozen yogurt, pastries, custards, and more.

UMSL Homecoming Week will take place February 16 through 21. Homecoming Dinner tickets are \$30 per person, \$55 for a couple, and \$275 for a table of ten. For additional information on Homecoming visit <http://www.umsl.edu/campus-calendar/2014/02/homecoming-2014-.html>.

Beta Alpha Psi will be doing free tax returns for students who make less than \$50,000 a year.

On February 9 Colleges Against Cancer will be selling wooden roses. Proceeds will go to National Cancer Society.

On February 7 Associated Black Collegians will host a High School Step Show at the Anheuser Busch Hall in the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center. Tickets cost \$7 in advance and \$10 day of show; there are also discounts for UMSL students. To purchase tickets go to <http://www.touhill.org/events/detail/associated-black-collegians-high-school-middle-school-step-team-showcase>

For more information on upcoming events, visit <http://umsl.edu/campus-calendar/>.

The Current

ON AIR

WEDNESDAYS @ 8:45 A.M. A COLLABORATION WITH

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WHAT'S CURRENT WEDNESDAYS

“Learning to Teach in a Changing System”

When: Wednesday, February 4, 2015 at 2:00 p.m.

Where: MSC Century Room C

What: Discussion with Free Pizza Lunch

Join *The Current* and discussion leader James V. Shuls, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of educational leadership and policy studies in the College of Education, for a lively, student-centered discussion. Common Core, Flipped Classrooms, Value-Added Models, Charter Schools, Teacher Tenure – name the policy and it is clear that the educational landscape is changing. During this session, we will discuss what these changes mean for the educational system in the United States and for teachers in particular.

“ What’s Current Wednesdays “ is a monthly forum for faculty and student discussions about current events, co-sponsored by The Current student newspaper and the New York Times, with support from Student Life and Community Outreach & Engagement at UMSL.

# Tips to Become e-Professional

MARY CHICKOS  
STAFF WRITER

On January 29, in the Office of Career Services, Lynn Willis, a Career Services Coordinator, gave a professional development workshop about tips for sending professional e-mails.

Willis gave a basic list of questions one should ask themselves before sending a professional e-mail. Is my e-mail ready to send? Is my subject line clear and concise? While professional e-mails are an important skill to learn when they are sent to professors, employers and coworkers, they are not to be viewed like the e-mails sent to family and friends, which can be more casual. However, there are some necessary courtesies that improve the e-mail correspondence process, regardless of the recipient.

Always fill in the subject line of any e-mail. According to Willis, "Use a descriptive topic that means something to your reader." For example, "Please review my resume."

It is important to use a professional greeting with a title, such as Mr., Ms., Mrs., Dr., Professor. "Hey Lynn" is not a professional greeting. If the e-mail is designated for a familiar individual, use their first name as you would in person or on the phone.

Do not use all capitals, since this can be interpreted as SHOUTING! Use of exclamation marks can be interpreted as anger.



ERIC WYNEN/THE CURRENT

Be sure not to use angry tweetspeak when emailing your boss or professor

Remember that for business correspondence, correct grammar is vital. Do not write long, run-on sentences, as shorter sentences are better for this type of communication. PLZ avoid text speak and excessive use of short phrases for business professional correspondence. It is important to be concise and stick to the point of your subject line. Write with action verbs, and use bullet points rather than long winded paragraphs. Signature blocks are commonly used at the conclusion of the correspondence containing name, title, company and address. For example:

Joseph G. Wilson, BSBA Finance  
University of Missouri-St. Louis,  
Class of 2016  
314-123-4567  
jgwilson@gmail.com

Edit and proofread everything before you hit send. An e-mail full of errors communicates sloppiness or lack of attention to detail. Read everything out loud to see if it makes sense. Proofread. Proofread again.

Be mindful of how many people are included in the e-mail. Be very careful when using "Reply to all" or "Forward" if the e-mail is intended for only certain people. Provide

specified label attachments such as a resume with a clear, unique title "Jeff Jones resume," rather than "January 29 version of my resume."

Do not share too much personal information with people whom you work or have class with. However, this might be a wise business practice in all areas of life, not just e-mails.

Make sure there is a clear subject line in your e-mail. Stick to the topic related to the subject line. Use correct grammar, spelling and punctuation. Use an appropriate greeting.

Above all, be polite, respect-

ful, and concise. Sending an e-mail tells the recipient more about the sender than what the body of the e-mail actually says.

For any further help with professional etiquette, contact Career Services. They can also help with resume and cover letter writing as well as interviewing and effective job search strategies. A career advice 101 series continues throughout the semester in 278 MSC. To reach the department, visit <http://careers.umsu.edu> or call 314-516-5111.

## The New Highlight for Student Living

LATWUANNA TROUPE  
SOCIAL MEDIA DIRECTOR

Over three years ago the property now known as Suburban Heights Student Village was spotted by Property and Operations Manager Michael Becker and a group of other eager investors. With backgrounds in Real Estate and Development, they saw this as a great opportunity and decided to invest in it. After being green spaced for decades, this property was long overdue for redevelopment due to a great need for nice housing. They believed that this property was purposeful and could be used to better serve the community as a whole. Located in Kinloch, Missouri, it has grabbed the attention of many people, especially students from all around St. Louis with the UMSL student body responding favorably. As Kinloch is developing to become a new and improved community

for its residents, they are in full support of the developments Suburban Heights is making to the area.

When introduced to the University of Missouri-St. Louis, Suburban Heights Student Village became the face for affordable housing for students. They are marketing themselves as the place to be for students. Being the new kid on the block, they have really made an effort to stay at the forefront for what the student needs in adequate housing. "I would say their attentiveness to their residents is excellent. In my own experience I've been a resident for over a year now and every maintenance request has been taken care of in a very timely manner. The management seems to care about their property and their residents," said DeAnna Monroe, senior, media studies. They

even support UMSL campus organizations through numerous advertisements to get their name out there.

Considering the other options students have, Suburban Heights could be in a league of its own. They offer UMSL students a one bedroom apartment for \$475, two bedrooms for \$525, and three bedroom apartments for \$625. They also offer more convenient living situations by including free Wi-Fi and a washer-dryer set in every apartment. "Suburban Heights has given me everything I need to be successful in college when I'm at home. Honestly, if it weren't for the Wi-Fi, I wouldn't have been able to pass, and this was the only place that I could afford," said Amber Whitaker, sophomore, psychology.

There are full time students from universities across the

St. Louis region and beyond who live there. They have students from different states like Minnesota and countries such as China, Nigeria, Liberia, and Mexico residing in their complexes. Diversity abounds. Suburban Heights is also home to students who have returned home from the military. These are certain details that students are made aware of upon moving in. "This is another aspect of safety, students living with students, colleagues living with colleagues," said Becker.

The next step for Suburban Heights is to institute a shuttle system that will make transportation to and from the apartments much easier. They understand how proximity is also an important part to students' success, but they do not use this as a way to take advantage of students previously attracted to

their modest price ranges.

While they continue to promote their theme of student living, they are looking forward to one day having the support from universities. "We are still eagerly waiting for UMSL's response to our theme housing," said Becker. "We believe in our superior service because we truly care about every one of our tenants from the bottom of our hearts."

Until then, Suburban Heights Student Village is not affiliated with any particular university, yet it will continue to cater to the needs of the average student with adequate, affordable housing.



# UMSL-sponsored Africa World Documentary Film Festival Launches World Tour Feb. 6-8

CATE MARQUIS  
A&E EDITOR

The eighth annual Africa World Documentary Film Festival kicks off its world tour on February 6 at the Missouri History Museum. The film festival is sponsored by the University of Missouri's International Studies Program, the E. Desmond Lee Professorship in African, African American Studies and the Des Lee Collaborative Vision.

Forty documentaries, ranging from short films to feature-length films will be included in the Africa World Documentary Film Festival (AWDFF). All films are either in English or have English subtitles. The international film festival spotlights peoples of African descent around the world and aims to promote knowledge and appreciation of the culture

and people of Africa and of African descent. Panel discussions and talks with films' directors are interspersed throughout the festival.

Ephrem Andemariam is the program coordinator for the festival, and 'Niyi Coker, Jr., E. Desmond Lee Professor in the Department of Theatre, Dance and Media Studies, is the festival director.

The start of the festival coincides with the beginning of Black History Month, but the festival's worldwide tour continues through the year, concluding in Kingston, Jamaica in October. Major cities visited by the festival include London and Philadelphia, and countries include the United Kingdom, Nigeria, South Africa, Barbados, Cameroon, and Ghana. The

festival's full list of films and locations can be found at their website [www.africaworldfilmfestival.com](http://www.africaworldfilmfestival.com).

AWDFF begins on February 6 at 10:30 a.m. and concludes at noon at the Missouri History Museum with the short "My Favorite Things," an Ethiopian documentary about play and the rights of children, followed by "A Goat for a Vote," an hour-long film from Kenya and Netherlands about children competing in a school election. Two other short films dealing with children, "Cholo" and "The Ball" round out the first part of the program which is followed by a discussion of the films and the topics they highlight from noon to 1 p.m.

On February 7, the festival continues from 2 p.m. to 3:45

p.m. with "Colors: Bangin' in South Carolina," a feature length American documentary about the deadliest gang feud to ever take place in Columbia, South Carolina. It is followed by "The Vow," a Kenyan-American film about a man who wins a ticket to the U.S., thinking he will find the American Dream but finds violence, drugs, and tragedy instead. These two films are followed by a discussion from 3:50 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The evening program, starting at 5 p.m., features a pair of American documentaries, the short "Money 1955: The Emmett Till Murder Trial" and feature "In His Own Home," about University of Florida students' outcry about police mistreatment of a Ghanaian doctoral student when a

neighbor called 911 to report his screams from his apartment. Instead of helping, the campus police SWAT team shot him, thankfully not fatally. Discussion with the director of "In His Own Home" follows the film, followed by a panel discussion, "Race relations in America: Past, Present and the Future."

AWDFF resumes on February 8 at 2 p.m. with "See Me Now" and "Deeper than Black," two short films about the impact and meaning of skin color and "Cape of German Hopes," about a German family in South Africa. The festival concludes with a panel discussion on the issues of "Identity, cultural heritage and skin color & tone" from 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

## "Project Almanac," Go Back to the Drawing Board

CHANESE DAVIS  
STAFF WRITER

If producer Michael Bay was hoping "Project Almanac" would reintroduce movies about time travel to a new generation of teens, those hopes may be stuck in a time warp.

The entire movie was filmed point-of-view style like the "Blair Witch Project" to give it that documentary feel. Yet the appearance of raw footage used to carry the movie along seems more a distraction from the story itself. With all the rocking and rolling of the footage for the entire 106 minutes, the only thing to feel was nausea. There was not even a hint of thrill to this thriller. No jumping out of the seat or gasping for breath was happening because of this movie. The most dramatic scenes were when debris was swirling around.

Along with the dizzying effect of the "found footage," the entire movie displayed the questionable need to tie in almost every time travel movie ever created. The script was filled with name-dropping of movies about time travel like "Looper" and "Dr. Who" to validate its own existence. There was even a connection to "Back to the Future," with mention of the need for a flux capacitor. The camcorder even resembled the Mr. Fusion Home Energy Reactor used by the DeLorean



Left to right: Allen Evangelista as Adam Le, Sofia Black D'Elia as Jessie Pierce, and Jonny Weston as David Raskin in Project Almanac, from Insurge Pictures, in association with Michael Bay

time machine in the "Back to the Future" trilogy. Director Dean Israelite was bold enough to include the playing of "Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure" on screen at one point.

The movie centers on a teenage Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) hopeful, David (Jonny Weston). David stumbles upon a camcorder belonging to his deceased father. After ten years of being boxed away in an attic, the camera is powered up and David is able to witness his current self, walking through his house during his own seven-year-old birthday party. After convincing his friends that the video was real, they discover an unfinished

project that allows them to travel through time. With the help of two friends, his sister and a girl he is madly in love with, David completes the project and they begin to travel back in time to fix their lives.

This is the point at which the storyline gets lost in translation. The truth of the matter is, the average teenager would likely use his or her new toy in the same manner as this group. David wants money to stop the sale of his house and be able to afford MIT. David's sister Christina (Virginia Gardner) dreams of getting back at her rival. Adam (Allen Evangelista) just wants to be the captain of the baseball team. Jessica (Sofia

Black-D'Elia) would love to go to Woodstock and Quinn's (Sam Lerner) only hope is to pass his chemistry test.

The group, however, manages to win \$1.8 million in the lottery. It is not enough money after taxes to afford MIT, but they manage to save David's house and somehow make Quinn the most popular kid at school. Although Adam is the one who bought the ticket, what he does with his portion of the money viewers will never know. Christina gets the chance to douse her rival with two forty-four ounces of soda. Jessica does not make it to Woodstock, but she did go to Lollapalooza. Close enough. Woodstock was

well before she was born anyway and she may have bumped into her parents.

A standard rule of time travel is that changes to the past, even small ones, have the potential to create big changes in the present, even catastrophic ones. A major plot flaw with this film is that these kids travel back and forth in time several times, making changes without any noticeable changes in the present. It is only when the desire to be in love is added that there are catastrophic results.

Director Dean Israelite and producer Michael Bay may want to use the time machine and travel back to the drawing board on this one.

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# Bringing It Back on the Road

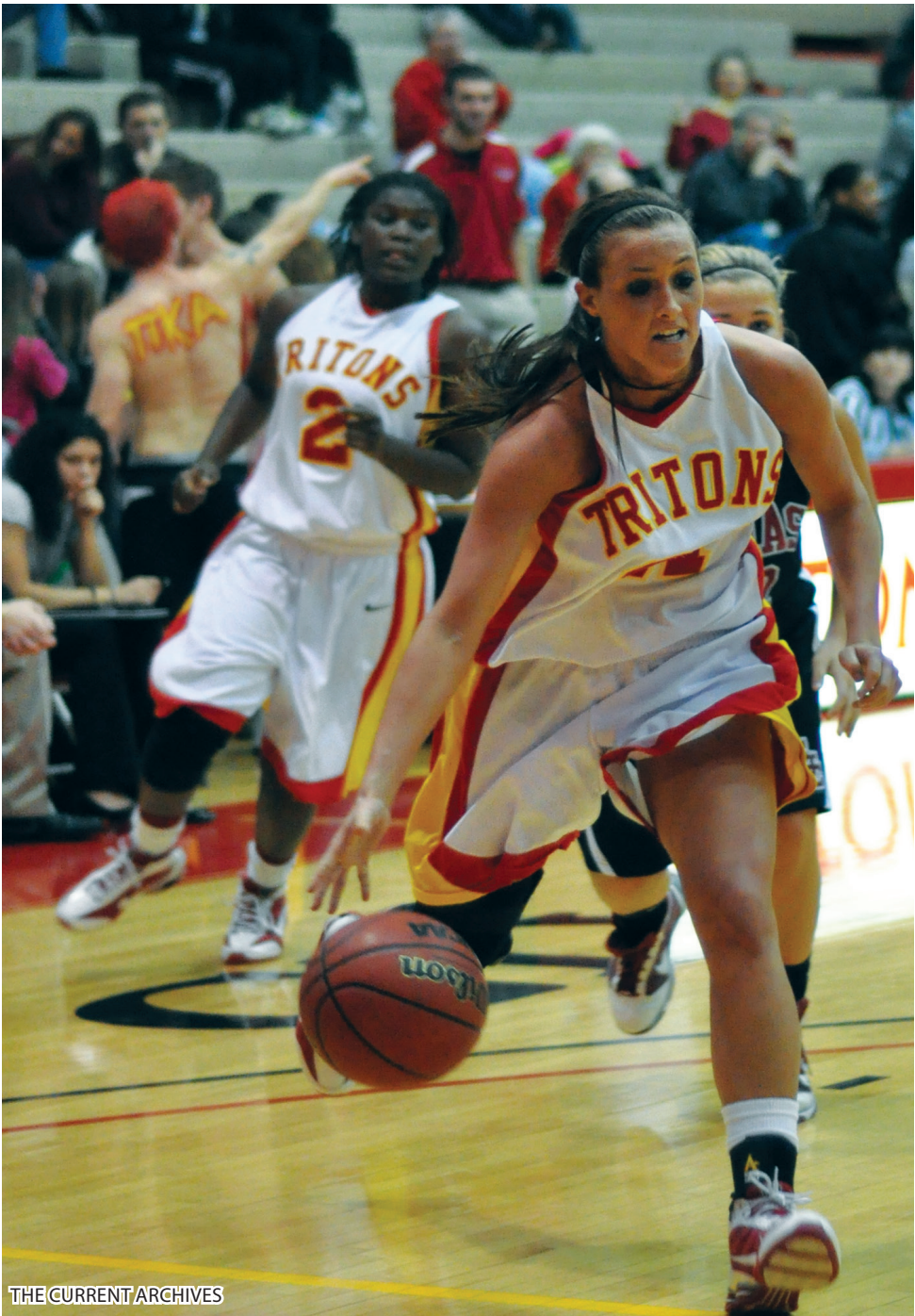
NICHOLAS PEREZ  
SPORTS EDITOR

After the loss they had last week, both men's and women's UMSL Triton basketball teams needed to regain their ground and take the win home. After the match-ups on Thursday against Rockhurst, they did just that.

The UMSL men's basketball team took a 77-76 win at Rockhurst on Thursday night in Great Lakes Valley Conference action. Tylor Wimbish, senior, liberal studies, connected with two free-throws with only seconds to play and locked in the win. This game had fans sitting on the edge of their seats the whole time with 13 ties and 10 lead changes, as well as several runs by both teams. The Tritons scored the last four points of the game to eliminate the three point deficit with only 60 seconds left to secure the win. Aareon Smith, senior, business administration, scored a game-high 23 points improving men's basketball team to 15-5 overall, including 6-3 in the GLVC. UMSL shot an even 50 percent, but equaled their season-low number of three-pointers. The Tritons took advantage of the Hawks' 11 turnovers, scoring 16 points on the other end. Neil Branham, senior, business administration, capped a 10-2 run with a spectacular three-pointer. Derek Shouse, senior, liberal studies, took the rebound and Wimbish was then fouled, giving

Shouse the game winning shots. Kevin Swanson, junior, communication, and Alex Majewski, sophomore, accounting, added a combined 23 points. Swanson made 12 and Majewski claimed 11. Meanwhile, Wimbish finished with 10 points.

The UMSL Tritons women's basketball team, who were playing the first of four straight road games, improved to 9-9 overall, including 5-5 in the GLVC and their 60-47 win against Rockhurst on Thursday night. Alexis Lawrence, senior, business administration, scored a high of 17 points, while Kelly Kunkel, junior, business administration, added 13 points and five rebounds, along with Amber Daly, junior, psychology, followed with 12 points, six rebounds, five assists, and two steals. UMSL finished the first half with an 11-4 run to ensure a 31-23 lead. Putting in six of the first seven shots, the Tritons were ranging about 50 percent. In the second half of the game UMSL dominated the court by building their lead to a commanding 45-32. Daly put four points in right at the 9:28 mark. The Tritons took a spectacular 45-24 rebound advantage, Jordan Fletcher, sophomore, business administration, grabbed seven boards and two steals. The UMSL Tritons both continue their four-game road-trip against William Jewell.



THE CURRENT ARCHIVES

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# Vatican Markets Jesus-flavored Chips for Super Bowl

ABBY NAUMANN  
OPINIONS EDITOR

In the whirlwind of Super Bowl commercials this Sunday, viewers may have overlooked one of the most talked-about ads of the year. Starting this January, the Vatican has officially sanctioned the marketing of new Jesus-flavored chips. The move is a result of declining parishioner offerings and a partnership with Tostitos to create a new snack just in time for football’s biggest game. Snack consumers may recall that last year, Frito-Lay ran a consumer competition to create a new chip flavor. Not to be outdone, Tostitos jumped at the chance to profit off their own unique snack. Vatican spokesperson and personal chef to the Pope, Archbishop Diego Tastycakes, told reporters on Sunday, “As a friar and a fryer, I fully support this move to modernize the way the church markets itself. For a long time, members of God’s flock who enjoy football have wondered how they can better serve the Lord on game day. This new chip enables us to feel full, in spirit and in stomach.”

The Vatican Nutrition Board has explained that the chip is modeled to taste exactly like an authentic Eucharist. Mass-goers can finally enjoy the taste of Christ’s flesh at their leisure, no matter what time or which day of the week. When asked about future plans, the Vatican has expressed a desire to debut a Blood-of-Christ beer in time for March Madness.

# Artist Igarashi’s Vagina Kayak Controversy

ALBERT NALL  
STAFF WRITER

Megumi Igarashi is a Japanese artist whose pursuit in the field of sculpture and Manga art (Comics) is just as well-known as her controversial art featuring female body parts. Igarashi goes by the euphemism Rokude-nashiko, “good-for-nothing girl” or “bad girl.” Igarashi has become prominent in Japan for her creations featuring female genitalia. Her goal is to portray female body parts in a positive light in Japan, where she considers nudity “overly hidden.” It is fair to say that in a nation where female nudity remains a stigma, Igarashi has endured much condemnation by Japanese authorities and her own community.

In July of 2014, Igarashi was arrested on allegations or charges that she had violated Japanese obscenity laws by emailing a “selfie” of a kayak that was modeled on a 3D scan of her vagina. On December 3, Igarashi was again arrested for an allegation that she displayed an obscene object at a Tokyo boutique, along with Minori Watanabe, a feminist writer and activist (who goes under the pen name Minori Kitahara). Igarashi was freed after an appeal and a citizen’s petition demanding her release. If Igarashi is convicted, she would be incarcerated for two years and fined \$2.5 million.

Below the surface, it appears that what a culture deems as obscene goes well beyond erotic content and delves into social politics. The irony of this is that the discourse over Igarashi’s artwork is at the source of deviation worldwide. In western civilizations, the depiction of female anatomy is not seen as taboo as it was in previous generations. We are in an age where the breast is displayed far more explicitly and with more decorum, partly thanks to customary observances for women such as the Susan G. Konan Race for the Cure for breast cancer awareness. At the same time, the United States is still in a state of vitriol over public breastfeeding, which is being increasingly endorsed by health-care organizations by way of public awareness campaigns. In terms of historical perspective, image-based obscenity in American court proceedings centered on such works as Fanny Hill, a work featuring a nude-bathing party, written by John Cleland as far back as 1760. The 1973 Supreme Court ruling Miller v. California established that serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value determines the value and appropriateness of nudity.

I suppose the contempt over Igarashi actually centers around “sexual objectification,” which has been recognized in feminist theory since the 1970s. While it is true that art may depict women as physical objects and not human beings—an underlying issue that divides feminists across the board—objectification is really beside the point when it comes to the kayak Igarashi made with a laser printer. In Japan, genitalia cannot be shown in print or on display within the person. Igarashi’s kayak is not an actual female vagina but a symbolic depiction that clearly does not violate the law in Japan. All Igarashi did was raise funds online to make the boat, which is bright yellow with cartoonish lettering that makes the vessel appear innocuous. With that said, what this controversy is really about is the lack of discourse in Japan on feminist ideas. In this case, the Japanese government decided to administer its outdated brand of sexism to the source: artist Megumi Igarashi, the woman who crafted a kayak inspired by her genitals.

# Technology Belongs in the Classroom

SARAH HAYES  
STAFF WRITER

At lunchtime, the various sitting rooms in the Millennium Student Center become mini conventions sites of technology, filled with students staring at the screens of laptops, netbooks, tablets, and smartphones, while sneaking in quick meals between classes. The last time I was in the MSC television room, I saw as many as six laptops on tables scattered around the TV. Naturally, a majority of them were Macs, but is that any surprise?

And yet, in my actual classes, not many people use electronic devices to take notes or use online resources to support the class lesson. I can count on one hand the number of classmates who do – one who takes notes on a laptop, another who accesses our class textbook via tablet. It is a bit astonishing that in this era of technological dominance in many areas of life, this has not translated visibly into the classroom.

Perhaps there are other classes where, once the professor starts their lecture, everyone pulls out a laptop and the air fills with the gentle clacking of keyboards in action. Perhaps there is a professor whose mandatory texts are in e-book format, allowing students to have out Kindles, Kobos, and iPads during class. However, this does not seem to be a common trend, with the highest instances of student technology usage still outside the classroom.

Academia has become more open to technology in the classroom. Trusting a student to use their computer for class allows for more freedom in how students interact with the material. But there seems to be a continuing stigma around pulling out a laptop during class. Is it the sound of typing that may distract others? Are pen and paper easier to pull out during a busy class period than powering up an Airbook? Or perhaps we still kowtow to that puritanical belief that all tech-devices have to be banned from the classroom, lest we be distracted by their overall shiny nature?

Banning student-involved technology in the classroom, directly or indirectly, is hindering. It can be harmful to the learning environment. The way the current arc of technology is moving, every citizen will soon have to learn a certain base level of comfort with computers on both a hardware and software level if they want to succeed. There is no better place to reach that level than in the classroom. However, it is in the classroom that acceptance of ‘tech’ as a learning aid is finding resistance.

The United States claims to be a society of modern thinking, yet we continue to keep computers out of the majority of classrooms. We do not require students to learn how to write code at an early age. We relegate tech classes to the ‘elective’ status or restrict technology instruction to STEM majors’ requirements, effectively shutting out non-computer science majors from a wealth of knowledge.

If professors were more open and accepting of students using tech tools to learn in class, perhaps this trend could be reversed. This means not only ending the ban on of computers in class, but actively allowing and encouraging students to engage in the text electronically, bringing up supplementary material online, or simply taking notes on a laptop, thus reducing the need to carry a bundle of notebooks around campus. As long as students and their professor have an agreement that technology will not become a distraction, it can work.

The University of Missouri-St. Louis is no stranger to technology on campus. There are multiple computer labs open to students, a library decked out with tech for the gathering and recording of information, not to mention the Technology and Learning Center on South Campus where students can be trained to use the newest technology and checkout equipment for academic purposes. Every classroom has a computer and connected video projector for the instructor’s usage. We trust our professors not to slack off using the technologies already present in the classrooms; should we not extend that same level of trust to the students looking for an education?

It is a widely accepted idea in the education field that not all students learn the same way. Some students are visual learners, others are auditory and still others prefer a more structured setting over a looser teaching style. If there is even one student who learns best through using personal tech and benefits more from using electronic devices than more traditional means, that student should be fully supported. Computers are not keeping students from being fully engaged in class. Rather, easily distracted students are doing that to themselves, with or without a computer.

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# Students Discover Their Learning Styles

ALBERT NALL  
STAFF WRITER

Students attending a workshop on January 28 called “Discover Your Learning Style,” were given a survey to fill out at the beginning of the lecture. The lecture took place in Room 225 of the Millennium Student Building from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. The clinic was led by Tiffany Izard, a workshop specialist from the office of Student Retention and Aubrey Baker, a graduate assistant. Flyers were given out by Baker, outlining the three learning styles.

Auditory learners like to piece together information gleaned through their educational experience by words and sounds. What is important to auditory learners is hearing a speaker’s voice. In that sense, the auditory learner is in his element with projects that include oral presentations. One of the challenges that auditory learners have is dealing with both sound and silence, and being easily distracted by both. An approach for dealing with this is to use tranquil instru-

mental music when studying. Auditory learners can also benefit from the Cornell Note Taking Method. The system places emphasis on note taking, and recording of lectures by way of extra note columns and condensed sentences. Part of that process is in formulating questions based on the notes. The final elements of the Cornell system are reciting, reflecting, and then reviewing. A study published in 2007 by Wichita State University found that the Cornell method was the best for auditory students who need to fuse and apply learned knowledge.

The visual learner is quite sociable, and will enjoy interacting and engaging with the larger society. Visual learners, in contrast to their auditory counterparts, recall names very well, but could forget a classmate’s face. Visual learners tend to move quite rapidly and may miss distinctions that could lead to summary judgments when they write papers. For example, what may be passé, could be

seen as retro from a different context. While auditory learners should sit in front of the class to hear the lecturer; the visual learner needs to hone in more on the facial expressions of a professor, especially in a large lecture hall environment. Experts suggest that the best learning strategy for visual students is by way of symbols, flow charts, graphs, and diagrams.

The final learning strategy discussed at the workshop was for kinesthetic learners. The kinesthetic learner needs to be physically active in order to learn. On the plus side, the kinesthetic student often has great hand-eye coordination along with quick reactions. This type has high energy and is great in activities such as sports, art and drama. Kinesthetic types generally do not like to remain in the same place all the time and need to move around frequently. The best learning method for the kinesthetic student is by way of field trips, labs, and exhibits

on class assignments. Some suggestions for kinesthetic types include incorporating real world examples or case studies that will help in the retention of abstract concepts. Some experts suggest asking friends to quiz the kinesthetic student out loud. Also, there are other animated approaches for this type, such as writing out key concepts with a finger in the air.

One exercise the workshop lecturers gave to those in attendance was directed at visual learners. The assignment was to draw a picture based on a theory they were learning in one of their classes. Another exercise at the lecture that was aimed at kinesthetic learners instructed attendees to close their eyes while listening to a video of the Jungle Book. For auditory learners, the students were assigned to two teams who debated on a social topic.

For more information on Student Retention Services and upcoming workshops, contact (314) 516-5300.

# Recognizing a Dangerous Relationship

ABBY NAUMANN  
OPINIONS EDITOR

February is not only the month of Valentine’s Day, but also Teen Dating Violence Awareness month. Each year, 1.5 million teenagers report being physically, sexually, or verbally abused by a partner. One-in-three teenagers have been purposefully hit, slapped, or physically abused, and 1 in 4 teen girls has been sexually abused. This translates into patterns of college-age abuse, where 70 percent of college-age young adults have reported being sexually coerced. Girls between the age of 16 and 24 experience the highest rates of abuse, three times the national average, perhaps because violence in abusers typically begins between the ages of 12 and 18. Victims of abuse are more susceptible to depression, eating disorders, pregnancy, STIs and suicide. That said, it is surprising to know that 81 percent of parents either do not think or do not know if dating violence is a problem amongst teens. That is why during this year’s ‘month of love,’ I am counting down ways you can recognize if you or someone you know is entering into a dangerous relationship.

The relationship is vague. ‘Casual’ romances and ‘friends with benefits’ may be all the rage now in romantic comedies, but in real life vague relationships can be anything but glamorous. Sometimes when a partner refuses to give your relationship a label, it is because he or she is confused about what they want. However, ‘label’ is a negative term for ‘boundaries,’ which are vital for creating respect and comfortability. If someone is expecting all the intimacy and attention they would receive as your boyfriend or girlfriend without the official labels and clearly-spelled-out boundaries, beware. They may be using this vagueness as an excuse to use you or using your desire for clarity as a bribe to get what they want.

A tumultuous past. Everyone has a past— regrets and experiences from

which we learn that make us who we are. But if your partner has a history of rocky relationships that ended bitterly, or they come from a family plagued by abuse, proceed with caution. A plethora of angry exes can indicate how that person damaged relationships, or could not end them maturely, and still has not learned from previous mistakes. I am sorry but you are not different. While we feel more attracted to others who like us but dislike everyone else — making us feel special, boosting our self-esteem—manipulators know this and it is the reason “but with you it’s different” has become the popular one-liner of abusers everywhere.

In addition, it is not someone’s fault to have grown up in an unstable household, but abusive parents may be the only model your partner has had to learn from, causing them to perpetuate violence and manipulation. Mental health problems exhibited by parents may also indicate that your partner could have inherited similar behavioral issues. In addition, those with rough childhoods can carry self-esteem and emotional problems as a result, which can handicap a relationship. While this is unfortunate, it is important to remember this is not for you to fix. This person needs to seek professional help.

Constantly confrontational. If your partner seems to get in a lot of fights, this is a clear sign of anger management problems or blind vanity and the inability to see their own faults. They will seek out fights, often saying they need to ‘confront’ someone about something they did or said, rather than letting it go. They may have a history of fighting, citing times they got so angry they ‘blacked out’ and do not remember hurting someone. They take suggestions or issues you bring up as personal insults and will find a way to turn the argument around to blame you. They

never willingly admit they are wrong. It is important to remember that while healthy relationships are indeed built on compromise and communication, your values, sexuality, and self-worth are not ‘up for grabs.’

Moving Fast. If your partner moves unusually fast, it could be a sign of enthusiasm and naiveté, or something more sinister. Master manipulators often begin relationships in an aggressive, obsessive manner— indicative of trouble to come. This type of individual will often demand a large amount of your time and become enraged when your other priorities— work, friends, and family— get in their way. These individuals operate by separating you from your support network, keeping those who might discover the abuse and intervene at arm’s length. An easy way to avoid this is to make your priorities known at the start of a relationship and stick to them. Keeping a balance between a romantic partner and your friends keeps both relationships happier and healthier.

Friends are worried. At times, we are so wrapped up in the chemicals of love or the charm of another that we easily dismiss warning signs. If your friends express concern about your relationship, take their input seriously. While only you know the inner-workings of your relationship, an outsider’s perspective can help you to see parts of the bigger picture that you may have missed.

Physical or sexual abuse, threats. These signs can be quite obvious. If your partner threatens you, has physically slapped, hit, kicked, pushed, sexually coerced, or forced themselves upon you, seek help immediately. In these instances, call 9-1-1 and distance yourself from the individual. It is important to remember that services exist to help you and keep you safe. Abuse is never deserved and never your fault. You can call the National Domestic Abuse hotline at 1.800.799.SAFE(7233) to speak to a trained advocate today.

(For more information about dating abuse, see [loveisrespect.org](http://loveisrespect.org))



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